

HA-1808  
1935  
Bel Air  
Private

The Sheridan House, 26 Hickory Ave., faces east on a rise above the street across from the Main Branch of the Harford County Public Library and the Bel Air Town Hall. The 1 1/2 story, 3 bay, gable-roofed cottage, built in 1935, is essentially a rectangle with a projecting center bay which presents its gable to the world in the front elevation, but the effect of the facade is oddly horizontal, rather than square, unlike the rear elevation, which is entirely boxy. The fieldstone steps and winding walk leading to the round arched door, the surrounding fieldstone which merges with and flows into the stone chimney, the leaded casement cottage windows in the north bay of the front, the lunette in the gable of the projecting bay, and the wooden cottage shutters flanking the 6/6 double-hung sash windows all give the house an indefinable charm.

This block of Hickory was unoccupied in 1930, save for a chicken farm in the south corner, according to the Sandborn map of that year. There was nothing but farm land across the street where the Bel Air Town Hall and the Public Library now stand. Harry Orsburn, a local contractor, acquired the block when he purchased a \$2000 mortgage assignment in 1931. It seems reasonable to assume he built the houses. This one was probably built for Alfred Sheridan and his wife in 1935. As a style it represents a transition in Bel Air architecture from the blocky bungalow and four-square styles so popular in the 1920s to a more horizontal style, although the rear of this house is just a rectangle. After World War II, tastes will move to the Cape Cod and the rancher, elements of which can be seen in this house.

HA-1808  
Sheridan House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

\_\_\_ 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

x 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sheridan House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 26 Hickory Ave. not for publicationcity, town Bel Air vicinity of congressional district 3rdstate MD county Harford

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michael Adamsstreet & number 1401 Gunston Rd. telephone no.: 836-2818city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1364street & number folio 449city, town Bel Air state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1803

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Sheridan House, 26 Hickory Ave., faces east on a rise above the street across from the Main Branch of the Harford County Public Library and the Bel Air Town Hall. The 1 1/2 story, 3 bay, gable-roofed cottage represents a transition from such blocky forms as the bungalow or the 4-square, so popular in Bel Air in the 1920s and 1930s. Built in 1935, it is essentially a rectangle with a projecting center bay which presents its gable to the world in the front elevation, but the effect of the facade is oddly horizontal, rather than square, unlike the rear elevation, which is entirely boxy. The fieldstone steps and winding walk leading to the round arched door, the surrounding fieldstone which merges with and flows into the stone chimney, the leaded casement cottage windows in the north bay of the front, the lunette in the gable of the projecting bay, and the wooden cottage shutters flanking the 6/6 double-hung sash windows all give the house an indefinable charm.

Windows are paired in the projecting gable, in the upstairs gables, and the cottage windows are, of course, paired. On the south elevation, a door is flanked by a short triplet window on the east and an ordinary single window on the west, but the effect is, nonetheless, one of balance. The three back (west elevation) windows are single, the middle one (probably the bathroom) being shorter.

The interior was not accessible, but Mrs. John Reed, at 32 Hickory [HA-1810], says it has a living room, dining room, kitchen, office, bedroom and bath on the ground floor. It must also have a fieldstone fireplace in the east wall of the living room. The upstairs is unfinished.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1808

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c. 1935 **Builder/Architect** probably Harry Orsburn

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This block of Hickory was unoccupied in 1930, save for a chicken farm in the south corner, according to the Sandborn map of that year. There was nothing but farm land across the street where the Bel Air Town Hall and the Public Library now stand. Harry Orsburn, a local contractor, acquired the block when he purchased a \$2000 mortgage assignment in 1931. It seems reasonable to assume he built the houses.

This one was probably built for Alfred Sheridan and his wife in 1935. As a style it represents a transition in Bel Air architecture from the blocky bungalow and four-square styles so popular in the 1920s to a more horizontal style, although the rear of this house is just a rectangle. After World War II, tastes will move to the Cape Cod and the rancher, elements of which can be seen in this house.

Edward Hall, the owner from 1946 to 1984, was an accountant. He carried out the only known alteration: he changed the kitchen, the room on the south with an outside entrance, into an office and a bedroom into a kitchen. The present owner, Michael Adams, worked for Mr. Hall. The conveyance suggests his promise to care Mr. Hall, who is quite elderly. Mr. Adams is an accountant and has a lawn service as well.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1808

Harford County Land Records  
Site visit, 4 May 1993

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 852 in the Town of Bel Air, 125' (Hickory) x 150'.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization \_\_\_\_\_ date 5-27-93street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES  
INVENTORY  
100 COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CROWNSVILLE, MARYLAND 21032

HA-1808  
Sheridan-Adams House  
26 Hickory Ave.  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Michael Adams

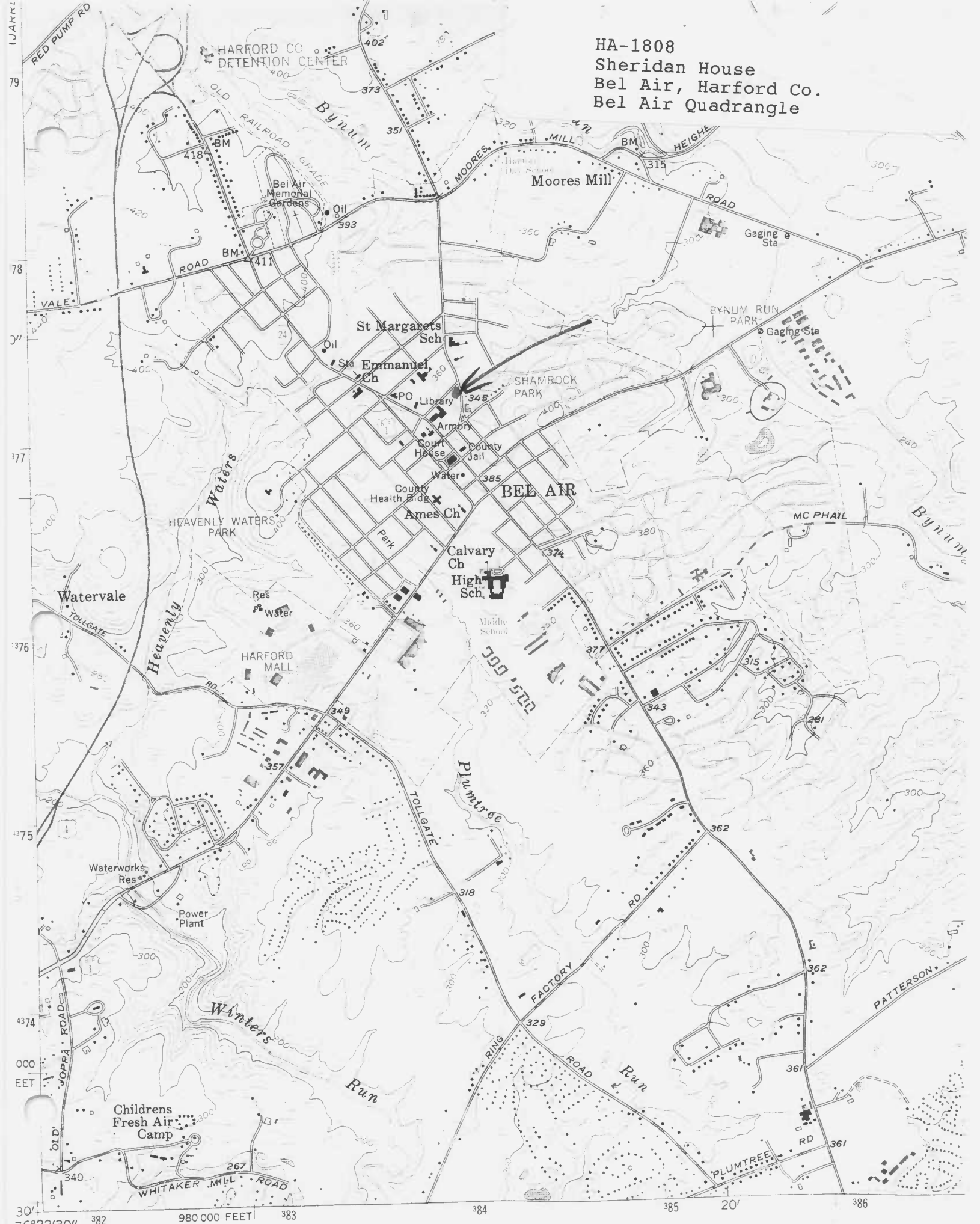
1364/449            13 Oct 1986  
Michael E. Adams and Deborah B.  
to  
Michael E. Adams  
separation agreement  
lots 5-6, block A of Orsburn's Addition, plat book 3/27  
plat dated 22 Oct 1934

1217/561            17 Feb 1984  
Edward N. Hall and Elva G.  
to  
Michael E. Adams and Deborah  
\$84,500

295/196            15 Apr 1946  
Alfred T. Sheridan and Hazel I.  
to  
Edward N. Hall and Elva G.

237/320            10 July 1935  
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.  
to  
Alfred F. Sheridan and Hazel I.  
Orsburn subdivided 4 acres he acquired by purchasing a  
\$2000 mortgage assignment 21 July 1931 by 221/49.

HA-1808  
Sheridan House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle







H2 904  
7-1-20  
H2 904  
6/93  
SHPC  
E. P. L. L. U.  
7-93

26 HICKORY AVE.  
BEL AIR



HA 1-5

24 1-10

21 2-10

2-10

SHPO

5+ E E 1515

293

26 HICKORY AVE.

BEL AIR



HA 948  
SHERIDAN HOUSE  
HARRIS  
11-20-11  
612  
W4S TV  
3-23

26 HICKORY AVE.  
BEL AIR